

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods are provided for separating a pane (11) of a brittle material from a moving ribbon (13) of the material without contact  
5 between the newly-formed leading edge of the ribbon and the newly-formed trailing edge of the pane. The apparatus includes a pane engaging assembly (15), a transporter (29), and a connector assembly (31) which together ensure that the pane (11) and the sheet (13) do not contact each other once separation occurs. In this way, edge chipping and the resulting  
10 occurrence of surface defects on the separated pane are decreased.